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-Rin-!

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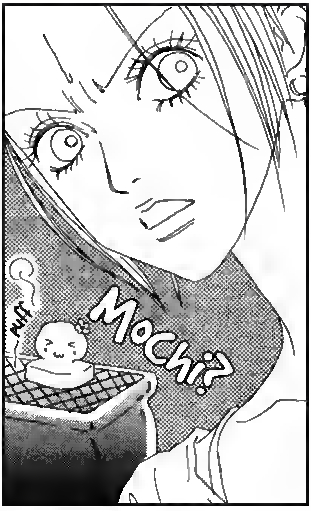

mochi*mochi presents

Rin!

By: Sotoru Konnagi & Yukine Honami

Translator Note: "Rin" is a word that describes something that gives you the chills. Not creepy chills or feverish chills but chills from suddenly touching something cold or chills from contact with something intense and awe-inspiring.

****

Mochi is basically a sticky rice cake made from pounded, glutinous rice. While there are special mochi dishes prepared just for Japanese holidays, it's eaten all year round too and quite delicious.

Err, mochi doesn't usually have Hachiko's face on it when you cook blocks of pre-packaged mochi from the store, but it's cute isn't it? It's rather hard at first, but becomes soft and sticky when cooked. Try some mochi sometime!

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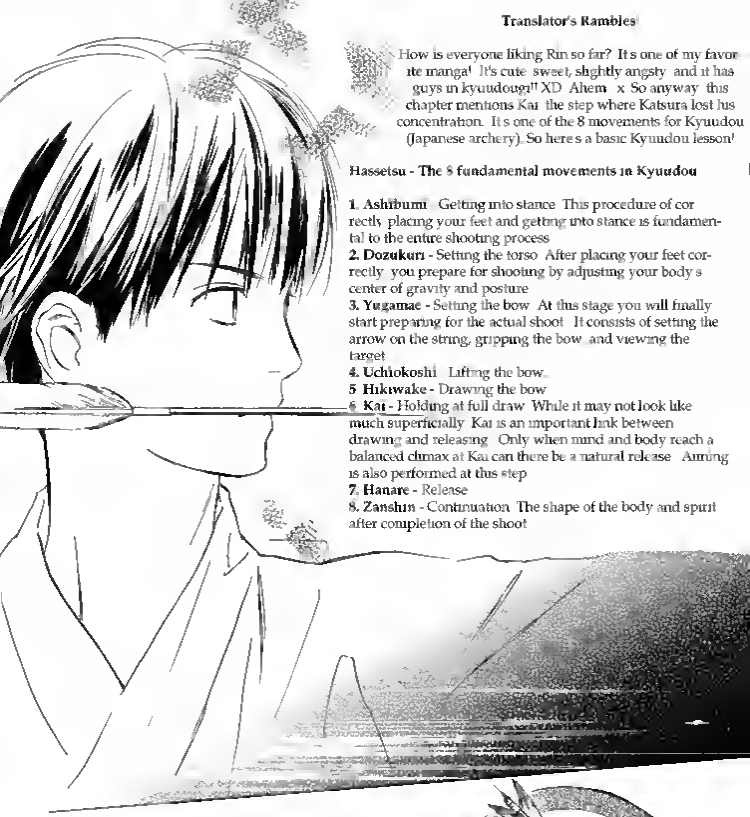
Translator's Rambles

How is everyone liking Rin so far? It's one of my favorite manga! It's cute, sweet, slightly angsty, and it has guys in kyuudou!! XD Ahem. x.x So anyway, this chapter mentions Kai, the step where Katsura lost his concentration. It's one of the 8 movements for Kyuudou (Japanese archery). So here's a basic Kyuudou lesson!

Hassetsu - The 8 fundamental movements in Kyuudou

1. **Ashibumi** - Getting into stance. This procedure of correctly placing your feet and getting into stance is fundamental to the entire shooting process.
2. **Dozukuri** - Setting the torso. After placing your feet correctly, you prepare for shooting by adjusting your body's center of gravity and posture.
3. **Yugamae** - Setting the bow. At this stage you will finally start preparing for the actual shoot. It consists of setting the arrow on the string, gripping the bow, and viewing the target.
4. **Uchiokoshi** - Lifting the bow.
5. **Hikiwake** - Drawing the bow.
6. **Kai** - Holding at full draw. While it may not look like much superficially, Kai is an important link between drawing and releasing. Only when mind and body reach a balanced climax at Kai can there be a natural release. Aiming is also performed at this step.
7. **Hanare** - Release.
8. **Zanshin** - Continuation. The shape of the body and spirit after completion of the shoot.



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Doesn't this make you want to learn Kyuudou yourself? I sure do. *Blames CCS and LoTR for starting her archery obsession*

One more note. I totally messed up Katsura and Yamato's last name in Ch01A. My mind read the Kobaya... and filled it in with -shi when it should be Kobayakawa. >.< Sorry for the mistake, and please replace the page with the new one included in this file. *bows*

STORY 神奈木智
凛!
-RIN-
森波ゆきね COMIC
SATORU KANNAGI YUKINE HONAMI PRESENTS
CHARA COMICS

Contents

The First Shot 7

The Second Shot 57

The Third Shot 107

The Fourth Shot 157

Special Extra

A Late-Summer Greeting For You 213

Afterwords

198 Yukine Hona

218 Satoru Kanna

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
SLIDE
SOU!
SOU SHI-BATA!
ARE YOU HERE!?

第一射
The First Shot
凛!
-RIN-

Spring when Katsura first entered junior high

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
thud thud thud
SLAM
IT'S THAT BOY
Yuu Kuun
HE'S SHIBA-TA'S..
Ritsuki
OH!
UM
NO, HE ISN'T
bow

SO HE'S THE JUNIOR THAT PEOPLE ARE REFERRING TO?
thud thud thud
!
Yeah, and then there's you...

I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
SOU!
CHOKE
FUMBLE
STOMP STOMP STOMP
FUMBLE
FUMBLE
HALT
A HOSTILE CONFRONT-ATION?!

CLAP
I NEED A FAVOR!
DO WHAT YOU USUALLY DO FOR ME!
I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME LEFT.
COME ON...
I'M BEGGING YOU!
puff
Huh?
Umm

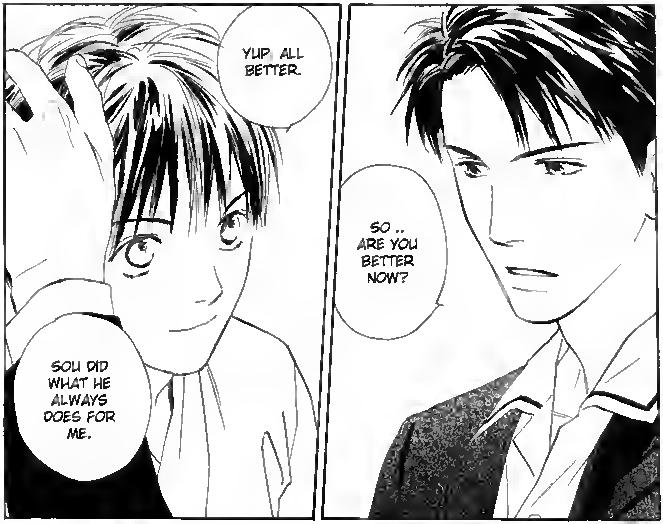
KAT-SURA...
WHAT?
THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE FACE OF SOMEONE ASKING FOR A FAVOR
I'M REALLY IN TROUBLE HERE!
YOU DON'T CALL THIS BEGGING?
Oh, Your Exalted Highness, Shiratori-sama!
grin
WHY DON'T YOU TRY...
SAYING "PLEASE"?
Erk
COME ON, STOP SCOWLING AND BOW YOUR HEAD...
THEN SAY "PLEASE". 'K, KAT-SURA?

DAMMIT!
PLEA-...
hug

turn
push
THANKS..
OH!
YOU BETTER BE CAREFUL!
YOUR UNIFORM REEKS OF SMOKE!
I WAS SCARED SHITLESS!
Wah
SO THAT'S THE GUY ALL THE RUMORS ARE TALKING ABOUT? HE IS SHIRATA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND?

IT'S ALL CUZ THE GIRLS ARE IN AN UPROAR ABOUT IT!
HUGGING! IT'S JUST HUGGING!
THOSE TWO...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT.
OH, HEY, WASN'T HE WEARING AN ARCHERY UNIFORM?
HE HAS A CHRONIC ANXIETY PROBLEM.
I'M JUST A SECRET WEAPON FOR COMBATTING IT.
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON FOR IT TODAY?
Huh?
IS IT OK IF YOU DON'T GO?
MY JOB FOR THE DAY IS DONE
YEAH, THE REGULAR MEMBERS GET A DAY OFF TODAY ANYWAY...

KAT-
SURA..
step
step
YOU'RE LATE!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO BE EARLY FOR THE PROMOTION TEST?
S-SORRY, NI- UM, I MEAN, CAPTAIN
Um, no!!
SINCE SOU DECIDED TO SKIP TODAY'S...
THAT'S "SHIBATA-SENPAI"
OR "VICE CAPTAIN" FOR YOU
WE'RE AT THE DOJO HERE


YUP. ALL BETTER.
SO.. ARE YOU BETTER NOW?
SOU DID WHAT HE ALWAYS DOES FOR ME.

ERR..
RIGHT, KOBAYASHI-SENPAI?
THIS IS THE DOJO
DESPITE HOW CUTE YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER IS

KATSURA! WE'RE ASSEMBLING NOW
'K. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, KOUICHI!'
YOU MEAN HE ALWAYS DOES IT?
THE THING HE ALWAYS DOES FOR YOU...
sniff
sniff

sullen
I'm sorry!

EACH PERSON WILL BE SHOOTING INDIVIDUALLY DURING THE TEST.
YOU WILL BE JUDGED ON YOUR CONDUCT AND FORM
I CAN DO IT
ALRIGHT..
I'LL BE OK

creak
thwap

NOTE: SEKIHAN IS RICE WITH RED BEANS WHICH IS MADE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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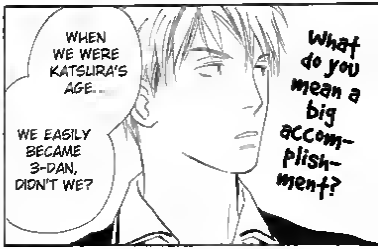
go by vicsi

mochi*mochi

YOU TWO ARE REGULARS FOR THE INTER-HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT...
WHILE HERE I AM, JUST A CRAPPY NOBODY.
gloom
My bad for "finally" becoming a 2-dan then.
What's Katsura with his shady attitude and tired hair, pest!
Sweat

too big a deal?
What do you mean...
IT'S ONLY BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED ARCHERY THOUGH.
IT'S REALLY A BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT!



Huh?
MY PROSPECTS WITH GIRLS BECOME SMALLER AND SMALLER.
EVERY TIME YOU THANK ME...
Smile
IS KIND OF UNREASONABLE FOR ME...
TO BE SATISFIED WITH JUST A WORD OF THANKS

SO, WHAT DO... YOU WANT ...?
TREAT ME TO DINNER.
WELL, IT'S NOTHING BIG
BUT WE JUST SUDDENLY HUG WITHOUT ANY REGARD TO THE PLACE WE'RE AT, RIGHT?
Um...
Whoa?
Kya...
EVEN OF ENUM DAYS
I THINK IT'S A MIRACLE THAT AFTER ONE YEAR SOMEHOW MY NAME'S BEEN CLEARED FROM BEING GAY
Err... I... I get it!
HUH?
Whoa?
MY PARENTS WON'T BE HOME TONIGHT
AND YOU'LL BE MAKING SEKIHAN RIGHT?
COME ON, INVITE ME OVER
SOU! WE MAY HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS...
BUT FOR YOU TO BE THIS SHAMELESS YOU...
ALRIGHT
HUH?
IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO DO!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL DAD AND TELL HIM THAT WE'LL BE HAVING SOU OVER FOR DINNER.
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE HE'S BEEN OVER.
KATSURA...
But I wanted to celebrate with just our family.

SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL THEN!
Katsura...
Listen to what your big brother has to say...
COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE CAFETERIA.
Katsura...
pat
CONGRATULATIONS, KATSURA
WOW... THAT'S GREAT!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.

BUT IN SUCH A SHORT TIME YOU'VE BECOME QUITE HANDSOME!
AND SOU-KUN, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE
Would you like some?
Yes, please.
That's my boy for you!
Of course!
BUT WHEN I CALLED HER, SHE WAS VERY HAPPY
YEAH
WHAT ABOUT MOM? IS SHE WORKING OVERTIME TODAY TOO?
Yup, yup
HAVE YOU GROWN AGAIN?
I'M PRETTY MUCH DONE GROWING, SIR
DAD'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT
I ALMOST WANTED TO SWITCH HIM FOR YAMATO BACK THEN
BUT SOU-KUN WAS VERY CUTE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG
Don't say that with such a serious face...
Sorry, mine is for you, Kotaro.
Sad, wasn't mine?
IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE STARTED ARCHERY WITH YAMATO IN JUNIOR HIGH...
THAT HE REALLY BEGAN TO BECOME LIKE A MAN

glance
SOU IS GONNA TEASE ME ABOUT IT AFTERWARDS.
serious
OH, SUCH A PITY.
YEAH, BUT KATSURA'S CUTE ENOUGH!
GEEZ, NII-CHAN'S GOING OFF ON THAT AGAIN.
Hurry up and get together with your old man.
SPORTS FESTIVALS.
SCHOOL RECITALS
Oh, there there
WHENEVER THERE WAS SOMETHING BOTHERING HIM, HE'D RUN STRAIGHT TO SOU-KUN.
HEY, WAIT! WHY IS IT ONLY SOU?
OTHERWISE THERE'D BE NO CURING KATSURA'S ANXIETY PROBLEM.
BUT I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO SOU-KUN
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY...

MY POSITION AS THE OLDER BROTHER
San chaan...!!
I-I'll be
You're not just holding onto Katsura's weakness, are you?
If you're not, then why is...
SOU! YOU'RE TELLING ME EVERYTHING TODAY!
HUH?
N-... NII-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Not again
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I'M JUST MORE DEPEND-ABLE THAN YOU ARE, YAMATO.
What!?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SHEESH THIS KEEPS COMING UP AGAIN AND AGAIN
I'M JUST DOING MY JOB AS A GOOD VOLUNTEER
SHOW SOME THANKS HERE

NOTE: AGEDASHI IS DEEP-FRIED FOOD, SUCH AS AGEDASHI TOFU. YUM. :D

DAD..
Surgery in Progress
KAT-SURA.
SOB..
SNIFF
I...
JUST THOUGHT ONII-CHAN'S BIKE WAS NICE
SNIFF
YEAH.

MY HEART WAS BEATING FAST
VERY FAST.
YEAH
SO THEN.
I CLOSED MY EYES.

I'LL HUG YOU.
JUST LIKE THIS
AND YOU'LL CALM DOWN
AND THEN YOU WON'T MESS UP
AND SCARY THINGS WON'T HAPPEN.
clench
IT'LL BE OK
I PRO-MISE

SINCE THEN...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
THAT WAS THE FIRST HUG I GOT FROM SOU, I THINK...
BEFORE EVERY BIG EVENT OF MY LIFE,
I'D WONDER IF I WAS GOING TO FAIL OR MESS THINGS UP HORRIBLY...
AND I'D BECOME INCREDIBLY NERVOUS.
I'M SO PATHETIC...
FLOP
WHEN SOU HUGGED ME, I WOULD CALM DOWN.
BUT...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STOP SHAKING OR THROBBING...
I'VE ALSO GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I WOULD HAVE PASSED OUT FROM ANEMIA.

I'M JUST DOING MY JOB AS A GOOD VOLUNTEER
I KNOW MYSELF...
THAT I CAN'T GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS, BUT...
.. THOSE WORDS...
REALLY CUT ME...
KAT-SURA

NOTE JAPANESE STUDENTS ONLY SWITCH CLASSROOMS WHEN THE CLASS REQUIRES SPECIAL FACILITIES

SORRY, KOUICHI.
GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME.
HUH?
MY PROSPECTS WITH GIRLS BECOME SMALLER AND SMALLER.
WITH HIS LOOKS,
THERE'S NO WAY HE'S NOT POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
IF IT'S REALLY MY FAULT...
THAT HE CAN'T GET A GIRL-FRIEND...
I GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT.
Freeze
SORRY...
FOR MAKING YOU COME ALL THE WAY HERE...
IT'S OK.

I...
I LIKE YOU, SHIBATA-KUN.
I KNEW IT
UWA...
thadump
BUT...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
SHE'S GOING LOOKING U
YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW...
WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU
thadump
WHAT DO I DO..
thadump
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME.
I

CLACK
thadump

THWAP
WOW

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IF THAT'S TRUE THEN THE CAPTAIN WOULD BE THUNDER
WHILE THE VICE CAPTAIN SEEMS TO EXUDE THE PRESENCE OF FLOWERS
FLOWERS?
pfft
HEY, THE CAPTAIN AND THE VICE CAPTAIN...
HAVE SUCH CONTRASTING FORMS.
THAT'S BECAUSE ARCHERY REFLECTS A PERSON'S CHARACTER.
roar
Sakura-sawa! Quit your blabbering!
falter
snap

thwap
SAKURA-SAWA'S SENSE— REALLY IS THE BEST OF ALL THE JUNIORS.
ALTHOUGH HIS LACK OF SERIOUSNESS AT TIMES BOTHERS ME—
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SOU?
AS A CANDIDATE TO BE CAPTAIN NEXT YEAR?

IF HE DOESN'T SEE ARCHERY IN A MORE SERIOUS LIGHT, IT'LL BE TOUGH FOR HIM
Yeah
He's not the type who does his best for long
BUT HE AND KATSURA ARE A GOOD COMBINATION.
THEIR STYLES DIFFER ABOUT AS MUCH AS OURS IT'LL BE INTERESTING
YEAH...
KATSURA IS ALSO TRYING HIS HARDEST
...UGH

CLATTER
HE LOOKS DIS-TRACTED
KOUICHI
OH... IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK VERY GOOD
You were fine up until the hall!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN YOURSELF LATELY.
Are you not feeling well?
There there now
sob
Annoyed

2-B
chatter
chatter
WHERE'S KATSURA KOBAY-AKAWA?
Oh umm...
I THINK HE'S AT THE LIBRARY
THE LIBRARY?
HE'S THERE?
SAKURA-SAWA-KUN IS PART OF THE LIBRARY STAFF
HE SHOULD BE ON DUTY TODAY, SO...
They're probably together
He's totally taking advantage of the situation
I'll have to work him harder
HMMM...

Check-out period:
1 week
Due date:
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW...
THE VICE CAPTAIN DID TURN HER DOWN
Omigod!!
I actually spoke with Shibata-senpai!
CLOSE
THANKS
THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE WOULDN'T BE POPULAR
THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT IT
YEAH, BUT...
YEAH... I GUESS
slump

I'VE TRIED SO MANY THINGS.
FROM CHARMS...
TO SELF SUGGESTION TECHNIQUES
THERE'S NO CURING MY ANXIETY PROBLEM.
EVEN STARTING ARCHERY
IT'S A FORM OF MENTAL TRAINING FOR ME
THAT'S WHY I NEED SOU, I GUESS
JUST LIKE THE OTHER DAY
BANANA MILK
SO
THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN OVERCOME IT OTHER THAN THE VICE CAPTAIN'S HUGS
PLUS
YOU'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR LIKE, 12 YEARS

WHEN I WAS 5...
I WANTED TO PLAY WITH MY BROTHER'S BIKE FOR A BIT.
BUT WHEN I WENT DOWN A HILL, I GOT FREAKED OUT.
AND I ENDED UP CLOSING MY EYES.
CRAP, THAT'S DANGEROUS.
I WAS ABOUT TO RUN INTO A CAR.
Yeah.
MY DAD HAPPENED TO BE THERE...
AND RAN OUT TO PROTECT ME.
BUT HE GOT HIT BY THE CAR...

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pc by vicki

.....
HE HAD TO HAVE MAJOR SURGERY.
THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL,
I COULDN'T STOP SHAKING.
EVER SINCE THEN, I HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME.
I'D ALWAYS REMEMBER THE ACCIDENT
ANYTIME THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT EVENT..
KATSURA.
!

clench
SOU'S THE ONLY ONE...
THAT TENSENESS THAT I FELT
WHEN I WENT DOWN THAT HILL KEEPS COMING BACK
MY PULSE STARTS RACING, MY BREATHING BECOMES FASTER...
AND MY FINGERTIPS START TREMBLING
HE'S THE ONLY ONE ...
WHO CAN STOP MY NERVOUSNESS
AT THE HOSPITAL...
HE HELD ME UNTIL...
MY DAD'S SURGERY WAS OVER.

AFTERWARDS, I HEARD FROM MY BROTHER THAT...
clutch
THEY WERE PLAYING TOGETHER...
WHEN THEY HEARD ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.
YEAH, SINCE THEY'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
WHEN THEY HEARD THAT I WAS IN AN AMBULANCE...
HE SAID THAT SOU INSISTED ON GOING TO THE HOSPITAL TOO
HMM?
KOUICHI

I CAN'T KEEP DEPENDING ON HIM LIKE I DO, CAN I?
WHEN SOU GETS A GIRL-FRIEND...
HMM?
WELL...
I guess not
I'VE ONLY REALIZED SUCH A SIMPLE THING NOW
WELL...
I HAVE AN IDEA
HUH?
BUT THAT CAN'T CONTINUE FOREVER, CAN IT...
UP UNTIL NOW, HE HAS USUALLY HUGGED ME VERY OPENLY.

DO YOU THINK I CAN BECOME YOUR SECRET WEAPON IN PLACE OF THE VICE CAPTAIN?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY USING ME ONCE?
IN...
IN HIS PLACE...?
BUT...
EVEN IF I TRY...
I'M NOT FEELING NERVOUS NOW.
YEAH...
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT I WON'T BE GRADUATING BEFORE YOU...
AND I DON'T REALLY WANT A GIRLFRIEND NOW.

OH...
SO I'D HAVE TO GET YOUR HEART RACING FIRST?
WELL, YEAH
KOUICHI...?

The First Shot End

第二射
凛!
-RIN-
The Second Shot

eddaic
!!!

RATTLE
H-HUH...?
Y-YOU..
W-WHAT WERE...
DID IT MAKE YOUR HEART RACE?
HOW WAS IT?
NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE HUG
HUHP
NO WAY..
IS HE SERIOUS ..?
SLIDE

TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
OH HEY,
WE'RE ONE OF THE FIRST ONES TO GET HERE.
THE BEST THING TO DO AFTER LUNCH IS TO TAKE A NAP RIGHT BY THE WINDOW.
What are you, a student?
IT'S THE LIBRARY. GO READ A BOOK!
Oh, darn
THAT KOUICHI ...
HE REALLY TOOK THINGS TOO FAR
WAS IT BECAUSE I WAS DEPRESSED ...?
It seems stupid to actually get mad over this.

I LOOKED LIKE SUCH A KID...
I could not help it
KOUICHI SEEMED TO BE USED TO IT.
BUT...
THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS...!!!
WHILE I'm
TOTALLY FREAKED.
PANIC
THAT'S BECAUSE...
I AM A KID.

THERE'S SUFFICIENT PROOF THAT I AM ONE.
I'M ALREADY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, BUT I CAN'T EVEN CALM MY NERVES WITHOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S HELP.
FURTHERMORE, I HAVE TO BE HUGGED BY ANOTHER GUY.
IT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I'M UNDER PRESSURE...
SO I'VE NEVER HAD THE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK.
I HAVEN'T ... GROWN AT ALL.
HE JUST HUGGED ME AND TRIED NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
SUMMI
EVEN IF HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION WAS B...
HE WOULD NEVER PULL HIS HANDS AWAY FROM ME.
BUT FOR SOU...

I'M JUST DOING MY JOB AS A GOOD VOLUNTEER.
I KNOW THAT...
I CAN'T STAY SPOILED LIKE THIS FOREVER.
BUT THIS ANXIETY PROBLEM.
ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN HANDLE JUST LIKE THAT.
CLENCH
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SAT
KATSURA!
ONE'S here!

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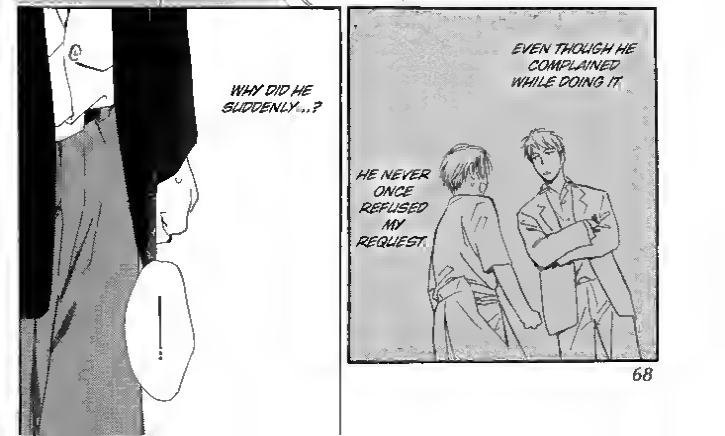
Huh?
SORRY, NII-CHAN. WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WE'RE HAVING A MATCH
WE'LL BE FACING OFF WITH SHUU-TOKUIN HIGH SCHOOL IN A FRIENDLY COM-PETITION NEXT WEEKEND
BE IN IT, KATSURA.
A MATCH .. ?
HE SAID THAT MOST LIKELY WE'LL PARTICIPATE IN IT.
REALLY?
IS THAT TRUE?
WELL, IT'S RIGHT BEFORE THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMS.
AND WE'D LIKE TO SEE HOW WELL THE JUNIORS FARE IN A MATCH.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MATCH EXPERIENCE.
Although I've filled in for someone else before.

PERHAPS I SHOULD
SAKURASAWA, YOU SHOULD BE MORE NERVOUS, YOU KNOW
That's right!
AND I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T PERFORM WHEN IT COUNTS.
Ah!
GETTING USED TO THE ATMOSPHERE AT A MATCH IS ALSO IMPORTANT
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL BE PARTICIPATING.
OH, I PERFORM WHEN IT COUNTS.
Please leave it to me.
Atmosphere
IT SHOULD BE OK TO KEEP RELYING ON SOU FOR NOW
ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T FOUND AN ALTERNATIVE YET...
KATSURA...
I'LL TELL YOU THIS NOW
DON'T BOTHER LOOKING FOR MY HELP ANYMORE.
HUH...?

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR BABYSITTER ANYMORE
SO ANYHOW...
SOU!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
DON'T DEPEND ON ME ANYMORE...
YOU NEED TO SHAPE UP TOO
IT'LL BE BAD IF YOU DON'T START BEING MORE SELF RELIAN
!
SOU!
YAMATO, I'M GOING ON AHEAD.

HEY!
WAIT UP!
WHAT WAS THAT?
SHIBATA-SENPAI SEEMED REALLY ANGRY
BE MORE
SELF RELIANT?

UP UNTIL NOW...


WHY DID HE SUDDENLY...?
!
EVEN THOUGH HE COMPLAINED WHILE DOING IT
HE NEVER ONCE REFUSED MY REQUEST.

I REALLY AM...
A SPOILED BRAT...
clack
KAT-SURA, ARE YOU OK?
UH... YEAH...

.....
rustle

NOTE MAKIWARA - PRACTICE AREA IN THE BACK OF THE SHOOTING HALL WHERE THOSE PRACTICING SHOOT AT STRAW TARGETS (THE ACTUAL MAKIWARA) FROM ONE BOW'S LENGTH AWAY
THE LINEUP WILL BE...
EACH PERSON WILL MOVE OUT TO THE SHOOTING GALLERY
SO AFTER PRACTICING AT THE MAKI-WARA...
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW WILL FINALLY BE SATURDAY, THE DAY OF OUR MATCH
THE CAPTAIN AND I WILL BE WATCHING YOUR SHOOTING STYLE CLOSELY.
DON'T BE CARELESS!
WE'LL BE CHECKING TO SEE IF ANYONE'S BEING SLOPPY!
CHATTER
whisper
HE'S SO GRUMPY TODAY.
whisper
LATELY, HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
I wonder what's wrong

KAT-SURA!
YOUR LEFT SHOULDER IS TOO LOW!
Hmm.
YOU HAVE A HABIT OF FORCING THE SHOOT TOO QUICKLY.
TRY COUNT-ING TO FIVE IN YOUR HEAD AND THEN RELEASE

1...
2..
BE MORE SELF RELIANT!
AHHH...
Thump
5..
1
I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR BABYSITTER ANYMORE

TH
UNK
.....!
Uwa-
What's wrong with Kakeru-kun, kun?
I'M SO PATHETIC...
CLACK

scanned & translated by artemis
edited by sanaiko
qc by vieri

AFTER PASSING THE 2-DAN EXAM, HE'S JUST GOTTEN WORSE
Kack
EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT WITH SOU, HE'S BEEN IN A SLUMP.
.....
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH SUCH A WEAK MIND
CLATTER
MUTTER...
WHAT A PREDICAMENT...
I COULD GO AND TALK TO SOU...
BUT HE'S BEEN RATHER AGITATED LATELY SO HE PROBABLY WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
HE CAN'T KEEP DEPENDING ON SOU FOREVER
I THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO ALLEVIATE KATSURA'S ANXIETY PROBLEM...
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S WORKING

WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING THE STRING JUST BROKE, THAT'S ALL.
IT WAS GETTING TROUBLESOME TELLING THEM HOW TO FIX THEIR FORM. SO I DECIDED TO GO AND SHOW THEM.
I SEE... WELL, HURRY AND GO GET IT TREATED
Hmph
HOW UNCOOL
PUB
SOU!
GO GET YOUR WOUND TREATED!
irritated
HEY!
GO AND PRACTICE THE WAY I TOLD YOU EARLIER!

GO AND COOL OFF FOR A BIT!
WITH THE WAY YOU ARE NOW..
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR THE UNDER-CLASSMEN.
THUD
NO, I SHOULD GO.
I'M A BIT WORRIED
IT'S OK, SAKURA-SAWA— JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE.
I'LL GO TREAT HIM.
THE FIRST AID KIT IS IN THE CLUB LOCKER ROOM, CORRECT?

NO, I CAN'T BE SHAKEN BY ALL OF THIS!
Yes, sir!
Hey, don't just stand there doing nothing!
WHAT WAS THAT?
EVERYONE'S JUST SHOOTING THEIR MOUTH OFF HOWEVER THEY LIKE

.....
SHIBATA-SENPAI
CLICK
Boy's Archery Cl

GET OUTTA HERE...
HMM?
THAT'S RATHER COLD SAYING THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'S WORRIED AND CAME RUNNING AFTER YOU
WE SHOULD DISINFECT YOUR WOUND, OTHERWISE...
THAT'S..
UNIPYUNG THE BOW ...UNO ZEN
아련

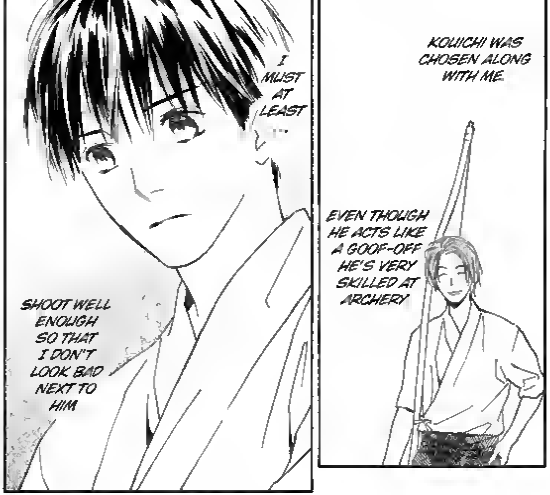
SO YOU KNEW
THAT I WAS THERE.
flap
YOU FORGOT THIS, RIGHT?
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE TIMING, BUT I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD RETURN THIS TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOU KNEW, SO YOU PURPOSELY ...

"UNIFYING THE BOW AND ZEN"...
I WENT AHEAD AND READ IT.
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD SENPAI.
IT'S TRUE THAT KATSURA IS LACKING IN THIS ASPECT OF CONCENTRATION THOUGH...
IT TEACHES YOU ABOUT THE LINK BETWEEN...
THE MENTAL STATE IN ARCHERY AND THE WAY OF THE ZEN, RIGHT?
GRAB
YEAH...
SO WHAT?

OH, NOTHING
IT'S JUST THAT I ALSO FOUND GREAT USE OF THE BREATHING TECHNIQUES DESCRIBED IN IT
BUT..
I THINK THAT IT WON'T BE ANY USE TO KATSURA IF YOU GIVE IT TO HIM NOW
SINCE CURRENTLY, YOU YOURSELF SEEM FAR REMOVED FROM THE STATE OF ZEN
JERK
I SAID SOMETHING OUT OF LINE
I APOLOGIZE
.....

chirp
chirp
clos
ANYWAY
I'VE MADE SURE TO RETURN YOUR FILE BACK TO YOU
slump
.....

CLICK
CLACK
CALM DOWN...
IT'S MY FIRST MATCH.
AND I'VE JUST BEEN PROMOTED TO 2-DAN
JUST CALM DOWN...


I MUST AT LEAST...
SHOOT WELL ENOUGH SO THAT I DON'T LOOK BAD NEXT TO HIM
KOUICHI WAS CHOSEN ALONG WITH ME.
EVEN THOUGH HE ACTS LIKE A GOOF-OFF HE'S VERY SKILLED AT ARCHERY.

Saturday
Hey! We're counting on you today!

thump
WHAT DO I DO...?
WHAT DO I DO?
thump
WHERE IS...
SOU...
chatter
chatter
NO...
I DECIDED NOT TO RELY ON SOU ANYMORE...!
NO...
I'M FINE.
DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT WITH ME?
ARE YOU OK?
startle

THAT NO ONE CAN HELP ME EXCEPT FOR SOU.
I'M CONFI-DENT
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR IT A SECOND TIME.
ACTUALLY...
RIGHT NOW...
I MUST BEAT THIS NERVOUS-NESS ON MY OWN
HEY.
ARE YOU REALLY OK?
You don't look so.

thump
CALM DOWN.
JUST CALM DOWN.
I-I SAID I'M FINE!
I'M GONNA GO GET A DRINK OF WATER
CALM...
thump
SOU
WHY...
SOU.
SOU...!
AREN'T YOU HERE NOW?

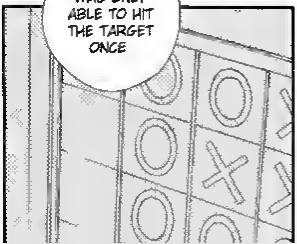
SOU...
SORRY...
I'M LATE
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BABYSIT ME...
ANYMORE?

NO...
I DIDN'T WANT TO START COMPLAINING.
THAT YOU...
WOULDN'T BE THERE FOR ME ANYMORE?
HUH?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I INTENDED TO DO..
SOU..
thump!

HIS ARMS...
HIS HANDS ON MY BACK...
thump
thump
FEEL HOT.
thump
thump
WHAT THE...?
IT SOME-HOW...
FEELS DIFFERENT FROM USUAL
SHOVE
bush
AH...

turn

EACH PERSON WAS GIVEN EIGHT SHOTS EACH.


KATSURA WAS ONLY ABLE TO HIT THE TARGET ONCE

AN UTTER FAILURE.

SO THEN... IT WAS...

AND FOR ONE OF HIS SHOTS, HE DROPPED HIS ARROW...
HE WAS SO UPSET IT WAS PITIFUL...
THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD SHOOT PROPERLY IN THAT CONDITION...
BECAUSE SOU SAID THOSE MEAN THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
WHAT DID SOU SAY?
IT'S NOTHING...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, SOU WAS HORRIBLE TODAY TOO...
HIS FORM WAS ALL SHAKEN UP...

USUALLY, IT WOULD CALM ME DOWN..
WHAT DID I DO THAT FOR?
WHY DID I RUN AWAY LIKE THAT?
AND THEN I'D BE ABLE TO PERFORM TO MY ABILITIES
clench
BUT IT DIDN'T CALM ME DOWN
EVEN NOW IF I TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED...
KNOCK KNOCK
sit
Nii-CHAN
DAD MADE YOU SOME RICE BALLS
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY NOW.

...
I'M SORRY...
FOR WHAT HAPPENED TODAY...
TASTES SO GOOD...
OF COURSE! DAD'S A PRO AT THIS.
HE IS AFTER ALL A HOUSE-DAD.
YOU CAN'T SPEND ALL YOUR TIME WORRYING ABOUT ME.
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN.
I KNEW THAT YOU WERE NERVOUS, BUT...
I'M SORRY TOO.

KAT-SURA...
HMM?
YOU MAY BE WORRIED ABOUT IT...
BUT AS A RESULT OF THAT ACCIDENT, DAD WAS ABLE TO REALIZE HIS TALENT FOR HOUSEWORK
YEAH, BUT...
MOM HAD TO GO OUT AND START A CAREER
SINCE DAD HAD TO STAY AT HOME FOR REHABILI-TATION
YEAH, AND SHE FOUND HER CALLING IN LIFE BECAUSE OF IT
DAD HAS TOLD ME THAT TOO.
HUH?
SO EVERYTHING WORKED OUT JUST FINE!
JUST FORGET ABOUT THE ACCIDENT ALREADY.
IT'S NOT...
ruffle
ruffle

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND SOU?
SOME-THING I CAN FORGET SO EASILY
OK?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL HE JUST SUD-DENLY TOLD YOU THAT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BABY-SITTER FOR YOU ANYMORE
BUT HE'S KNOWN YOU FOR TWELVE YEARS NOW
WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN FINE AROUND YOU FOR TWELVE YEARS.. JUST SUD-DENLY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I DON'T KNOW WHY EITHER .. crunch
.....
WITH EVERY-THING THAT I OWE HIM, IT'S HARD FOR ME TO ASK HIM WHY..
turn
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU TWO HAD A FIGHT OR SOMETHING..
BUT AFTER SEEING HIS BOW TODAY..

NI-CHAN AND SOU ARE THE TWO PILLARS OF THE CLUB.
BUT TODAY,
IT WAS
ESPECIALLY SOU'S GRACEFUL BOW
WHICH IS SO CAPTIVATINGLY BEAUTIFUL.
IF I HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO IT TODAY
THEN I MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

I WANT TO... TALK THINGS OVER WITH HIM.
I'LL GO OVER TO HIS HOUSE TOMOR-ROW.
TALK TO SOU?
SINCE I STARTED ARCHERY BECAUSE I ADMIRED THEIR BOWS.
NII-CHAN...
I'M GOING TO TRY TO TALK TO SOU.

ding dong

AH...
IS IT JUST YOU HERE, SOU?
They're both surprised
WHERE'S YOUR MOM AND THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, KATSURA?
open
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE THE ONE ANSWERING THE DOOR
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
THEY ALL WENT OUT
BAM
No! It's not your mom I wanted to see!
I came to talk to you!
OH, SO IT'S JUST YOU HERE
I SEE
YEAH
BYE THEN

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN IN SOU'S ROOM
I USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS A KID
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME HERE BY MYSELF WITHOUT TAGGING ALONGSIDE MY BROTHER...
AH
THIS IS...
FROM THE SCHOOL ARTS FESTIVAL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL..
EVEN THEN...
SOU HELPED ME CALM DOWN BEFORE THE CURTAIN ROSE

CLIMB
murmur
KAT-SURA !
Huh?
BUT AT THE CLIMAX OF THE PLAY, I FORGOT MY LINES.
The Wizard of Oz
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Your Back!!
AH...
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER FOR ME...
I DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND... DOING THAT IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE THOUGH...
BUT SOU, BEING FORCED TO ACCOMPANY ME, PROBABLY COULDN'T STAND IT...
"I WANT A BRAIN."
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
hh

HE WAS ALWAYS GRUFF,
AND HE TEASED ME ALOT..
BUT STILL
SOU WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME..
open
thump
HERE
Ah
THANKS
UM...
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
pshh

choke
HUG ME ONE MORE TIME.
I WANT YOU TO...
cough
UH...
KAT-SURA...
cough
WHAT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
BUT RIGHT NOW MY HEART IS POUNDING MORE THAN USUAL.
THAT'S WHY.

I WANT TO TEST IT.
I WANT TO SEE IF YOU HUGGING ME...
WILL SETTLE MY HEART DOWN.
The Second Shot End

Random Ramblings

♣ Thank you for buying this manga! It's an archery manga as you know. By whatever will of God, I have some experience in archery from my school days. However, when I first found out about this story I kept my exposure to archery a secret. It was so long since I've done archery. At the time we didn't have a leader for the club, so my archery knowledge wasn't all that great either. Also, I was kind of expecting this. So I'm petty! But being an honest person, I couldn't go through with it and ended up confessing right away. I don't know if the editor, Y-san, thought I'd be ok or if she forgot, but no money ever came. (laugh) She might as well have told me to research it myself from the beginning.

♣ Since I quit halfway my experience with archery was lukewarm at best. I worried over the littlest details such as the sense of holding the bow and arrows and the stance of each of the movements. It was a dilemma for me, having such a vague understanding of the subject. I kept thinking that drawing this is so difficult! But I ended up completing the manga while I was still mulling over things. So if you find anything that you think is wrong, please let me know!

♣ Katsura and the others hold the bow diagonally (oblique stance) when readying their bows, but it seems that very few people use this stance in practice. I've gone to see a few competitions here and there, but in the latest one I went to, there was only one person who used this stance (a middle aged man who resembled a bear) when I was a student I rarely went to see competitions either. It seemed to me that you tend to see people like that there. But Katsura and the others just simply look cool when they ready their bows like this!

♣ It's been awhile since I've gone back to my old school, so I went to take a little look. I was surprised to see that the archery dojo actually looked decent. When I first joined the club, we used an area by the school building. It was a field with just a target bank. (There was no roof on the shooting hall in the beginning, I think.) But now there are walls and even a door! It really looks like a dojo! I also heard that a former classmate of mine was an advisor for the club. I thought to myself, 'the times have really come around since I was here', and took a good look around the premises.

♣ To Kannagi-sensei, thank you so much! I'm usually drawn more to supporting characters, but strangely this time I'm quite taken with Sou. To Y-sama, I'm sorry for always pushing the deadline limits. Next time, I'll make it! Or so I always think to myself. (Please believe me.) I'll try my best. To all the readers, I'd be thrilled if I could see you all again.

Many thanks! Kaitani Nao

第三射
凛!
-RIN-
The Third Shot

I WANT YOU TO HUG ME ONCE MORE
thud

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS
HOW CAN I DO THAT?
WHAT IS THERE TO PROVE NOW?
DON'T YOU ALREADY HAVE A REPLACEMENT FOR ME?
A REPLACE-MENT?
HUH?
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME.
DIDN'T SAKURA-SAWA MAKE A MOVE ON YOU?
HEY, I—

MOVE ON...? MAKE A...
...
HUHP
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT!?
ANY-WAY...
I'M NOT YOUR BABY-SITTER ANYMORE.
SAKURA-SAWA OR WHOEVER CAN TAKE MY PLACE
N-NO! THAT'S NOT IT!
KOUICHI WAS JUST MESSING AROUND WITH ME.
IT HAD NO MEANING WHATSO-EVER!

HEY, SOU...
COULD IT BE...
THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU SUD-DENLY...
.....
KOUICHI LIKES TO DO WEIRD THINGS LIKE THAT SOME-TIMES.
ANYWAY, HOW CAN GUYS MAKE MOVES ON EACH OTHER?
DID YOU GET ANGRY OVER A THING LIKE THAT?
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME, THEN...
IF I HAD TOLD YOU...
THEN WHAT?
HUH...?

WELL...
creak
UH, THEN...
I

SOU...?
AH..
thump
HIS FINGERS ARE HOT.
IT'S THE SAME AS LAST TIME...
thump
thump
SO-..
SOU..!
SOU..
BE QUIET...
startle

YOU TALK TOO MUCH
squeeze
thump
thump
thump
thump
SHOVE

thump
WHY...?
thump
thump
IT'S REALLY... NOT WORKING...
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU ANYMORE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

creak
!
PPPPPP
PPPPPP

SINCE HE'S GOTTEN BACK, HIS MOOD HAS WORSENED COMPARED TO THIS MORNING
YOU DID SOMETHING TO HIM, DIDN'T YOU!?
Huh!?
What are you talking about all of a sudden?
Soul
What the hell did you do to Katsura!?
HEL-
Beep
Beep
Beep
NOT REALLY.
He's being worrisome like as usual
It's just that he's finally gotten a reality check
HUH?
THAT MY SUPER POWERS HAVE FINALLY RUN OUT
Beep
.....?

ALL BECAUSE OF MY PETTY JEALOUSY. .
I TOOK IT ALL OUT ON KATSURA
AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS A FAIRLY COMPOSED PERSON.
creak
DAMN...
I'M PATHETIC

I WONDER IF SOU'S ANGRY..
OF COURSE HE'D BE..
WHAT AM I DOING..?
EVER SINCE THEN..
TELLING HIM TO HUG ME LIKE THAT...
I'VE CHASED HIM AWAY AGAIN.
EVEN WORSE...
I'VE PROBABLY LOST SOU AS A FRIEND.
SOMETHING'S CHANGED BETWEEN US.
SOU'S HUGS ARE NO LONGER EFFECTIVE.
I'VE LOST MY SECRET WEAPON.

WHAT WAS SOU SO MAD ABOUT?
HE ONLY KISSED ME AS A JOKE...
BUT, HMM
!
PLUS, MY FIRST KISS WAS STOLEN FROM ME
I'M THE VICTIM HERE!
Some-thing's wrong here...
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME
!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS PATRON-IZING ME LIKE THAT?
HE ALREADY HAS GIRLS CONFESSING TO HIM AND STUFF.

I HAD ALREADY RESOLVED...
NOT TO BOTHER HIM ONCE HE GOT A GIRL-FRIEND
BUT STILL...
I REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT
HE WAS MAD ENOUGH...
TO TELL ME TO GROW UP
PAR
What's with that?
I'M SORRY
THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMS...
ARE COMING UP SOON...

CRAP...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...?
I CAN'T DEPEND ON SOU.
I'LL PROBABLY END UP REPEATING THE SAME PERFORMANCE AS LAST TIME
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SUDDENLY CALLED ME UP LAST NIGHT TELLING ME TO PRACTICE WITH YOU THIS MORNING
AND HERE I AM NOW
Hey you weren't like this yesterday
I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT IN AWHILE ..
IT'S DO OR DIE NOW, KATSURA
SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT KOUICHI'S EASYGOING ATTITUDE ABOUT EVERYTHING
IS PARTLY THE SOURCE OF ALL THE TROUBLE THIS TIME
BUT I DON'T MIND
IF I SAID I WANTED TO TALK NOW INSTEAD
CHANGE OF PLANS. BUT YOU'D PROBABLY GET MAD...
Shinge

WELL
IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR ME TO BE ASKING THIS, BUT...
HMMM?
WHY DID YOU ACT THE WAY YOU DID WHEN WE WERE AT THE LIBRARY?
SAYING THAT YOU'D BE THE REPLACEMENT FOR MY SECRET WEAPON...
WOW, THAT IS REALLY LATE.
Well...
YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING I DID OUT OF THE BLUE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, IT WASN'T SOMETHING I DID ON IMPULSE
THAT KISS WAS SERIOUS
SO THAT'S WHY.
HUH...?
IT'S THE other WAY AROUND
I KISSED YOU BECAUSE I WAS SERIOUS

SO I'M SAYING THAT I SERIOUSLY WANT YOU TO PICK ME...
AS SHIBATA-SENPAI'S REPLACE-MENT.
SO..
SO THAT'S WHY?
KAT-SURA...
CAN'T I BECOME YOUR SECRET WEAPON?
BEFORE YOU GET IN TOO DEEP, LET ME ASK YOU HOW YOU FEEL FIRST.
I-I MEAN...
WE'RE BOTH GUYS...
WHAT I MEAN IS Umm...
B-BUT..
Y-YOU'RE MY... BEST FRIEND
SAYING SOME-THING LIKE THAT... SO SUD-DENLY TO ME!
SAYING...

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CLING ON TO OTHER GUYS...
DO IT WITH ME.
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
YEAH
FOR EXAMPLE, SINCE I LIKE YOU, I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU CLING TO SHIBATA-SENPAI
UNDER-STAND?
erm
HOW I FEEL...?
BUT..
THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN SOU AND ME..
KATSURA, DON'T YOU WANT TO HUG ME?
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF...
WANTING TO OR NOT WANTING TO...

I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN BE SOU'S REPLACEMENT
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE
BUT...
I'M SORRY
KOU-ICHI
OH...
SOU'S HUGS
NO LONGER HAVE ANY EFFECT ON CALMING ME DOWN..
BUT...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY MYSELF
BUT IF IT'S NOT SOU, I'M USELESS
IF IT'S NOT SOU, THEN...
I GOT IT. I GOT IT
DON'T GET ALL WORKED UP ABOUT IT, OK?
MAN...
GETTING CALLED OUT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING...
I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE LISTENING TO YOU CRYING

Some other opportunity, eh?
I'LL SAVE MY ADVANCES FOR SOME OTHER OPPORTUNITY
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT
CLOSE ENOUGH
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED BY SOMEONE WHO YOU'VE HELD THAT DEAR TO YOU
WHO'S CRYING!?
I'LL BE HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER MY KISS
I said it's not like that
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, YOU KNOW
KOU-ICHI
HE'S SUCH A GOOD GUY...

AH...
HMM?
I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM.
OK.
AH, SHIBATA-SENPAI
Hi
HEY
GO AHEAD AND USE
N-NO.. IT'S OK!
I'LL USE IT LATER
AH...
brush

dong
dong
I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS
I GOTTA ACT MORE LIKE I USUALLY DO OR ELSE..
.....
CLENCH
squeeze
creak

murmur
IT LOOKS LIKE SHIBATA-KUN IS BACK TO NORMAL
Yeah
HE SEEMED UNEASY DURING THE LAST MATCH
murmur
He really is top cool
thwap!
HE'S BACK TO NORMAL...?
Try bringing it up a little higher
Ok
BUT, SOMEHOW HE SEEMS DISTRACTED...
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT HIS HIT PERCENTAGE IS BACK TO NORMAL..
AND THAT THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HIS FORM NOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO HIM...
OR LIKE HE'S LACKING LIFE IN HIS SHOTS

Hmm. What to do...?
THERE'S ONLY TWO WEEKS UNTIL THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMS
ALTHOUGH ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S SOMEONE HERE IN TOP SHAPE
KOUICHI, YOU'RE INCREDIBLE!
Yeah you think so?
You've hit the mark six times in a row now.
thwap!
WHAT'S WITH THAT EMPTY SHELL-LIKE SHOOTING!
Katsura, now is not the time for you to be careful of meeting other people.
KATSURA LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYING HARD TOO.
BUT THERE'S STILL SOME AWKWARDNESS BETWEEN SOU AND HIM
I REALLY...
GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.
Senpai, please watch me here.
Hm

DON'T YOU THINK THE BEACH DURING SPRINGTIME IS PRETTY NICE?
The blue sky! The white clouds!
THE BEACH!
YEAH, KATSURA!

THE BEACH?
WITH YOU, NII-CHAN?

BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR ARCHERY TOO.
HUH?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT PRACTICING MYSELF DURING BREAK.
BUT...

THEN THINK ABOUT...
WHAT KIND OF BOW YOU WANT TO SHOW...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WANT TO BECOME...

RIGHT NOW YOUR MIND IS TOO WEAK
YOU SHOULD TRY GAZING AT THE VASTNESS OF THE OCEAN AND CLEAR YOUR MIND

WHY I...
WANT TO DRAW MY BOW?
AND WHY.
YOU WANT TO DRAW YOUR BOW...
I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN ALL THE PROBLEMS LYING BEFORE ME...
THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT SUCH A BASIC THING.
THE CONFLICT WITH SOU...
THE UNEXPECTED CONFESSION BY KOUICHI...
THE CHRONIC ANXIETY THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO OVERCOME...

OUTSIDE OF CLUB ACTIVITES, NII-CHAN IS ALWAYS SOFT WITH ME
BUT NOW HIS EYES ARE SO STERN
HE MUST HAVE BEEN THINK-ING...
AND WORRYING ABOUT ME
What? A date? You two are always so lovey dovey
Of course. Is that bad? Yamato, you should hurry up and get a girl-friend or two
Uh... That's none of your business!
THE BEACH DURING SPRINGTIME SOUNDS SO NICE
I JUST MIGHT INVITE YOUR MOM AND GO TOO.
rattle
rattle
shake

HEY, HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE HEAVY ATMOSPHERE!
COME ON, KATSURA, SAY SOMETHING
UM... BUT
.....
rattle
Shake
SOU! WHAT ARE YOU...
YOU SAID IT'D BE VALUABLE FOR OUR ARCHERY. I ONLY CAME BECAUSE YOU WERE SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT KATSURA COMING ALONG
NO MATTER HOW AWKWARD SILENCE MAY BE...
WELL SORRY FOR SHOWING UP UNEXPECTEDLY IN YOUR PLANS
BUT YAMATO HID THIS FROM ME TOO

So why the hell did you follow along!?
WELL...
CUZ WHEN I ASKED KATSURA TO PRACTICE WITH ME, HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO THE BEACH
AT LEAST I WOULDN'T HAVE TO HEAR WORDS LIKE THAT.
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY MENTION OF ME YET
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU ALONG
Shake
Rattle
CRASH...
Uhm...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAME HERE TO PLAY ANYWAY.
S-SO WHAT!
BUT YOU KNOW...
IT'S KINDA BORING COMING TO THE BEACH WITH JUST FOUR GUYS...
DON'T YOU THINK?
THE SEVEN BARRIERS TO SHOOTING...
TRY RECITING THEM SAKURASAWA.
I CAN RECITE THEM.
YOU WERE TAUGHT TO KEEP YOUR SPIRIT STRONG BY NOT ALLOWING THOSE BARRIERS TO CONTROL YOU.
YES
YOU MEAN THE SEVEN PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS...
SAID TO INFLUENCE OUR ARCHERY?

KATSURA, WHAT FOLLOWS AFTER?
AS EXPECTATION TARGETS THE SPLEEN,
SURPRISE, TOO, THE INTESTINE...
UM...
FEAR HAUNTS THE KIDNEYS AND...
ANXIETY...
CONSUMES THE SOUL
HAPPINESS CLOUDS THE HEART.
ANGER INFECTS THE LIVER,
WHILE SORROW PENETRATES THE INTESTINE.
CRASH

CRASSSH
KATSURA FEARS HIS CHRONIC ANXIETY...
FEAR AND...
ANXIETY...
I'M SURE THAT THEY BOTH HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.
I HAVE TO GET THEM TO TALK HERE SOMEHOW.
WHILE SOU...
SEEMS DEPRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS
THAT'S WHY I INVITED SOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
But then an extra pest tagged along.

ACK!!
CAN'T WE ALL JUST STOP AT A SMALL RESTAURANT SOMEWHERE?
Idiot!
THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING ALL THE WAY TO THE BEACH?
OH, YEAH! SAKURASAWA, COME HELP ME!
CLAMP
WHAT'S UP?
YOU STARTLED ME THERE.
WE GOTTA GO BUY LUNCH TO EAT HERE!
CRAP IT'S ALMOST LUNCH-TIME.
HUH?
WITH SOU--?
WAVE
WE'LL BE BACK SOON
SO IT'S DECIDED. YOU TWO WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR US FOR A BIT.

SE-...
SENPAI!
!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE BEEN ALONE TOGETHER...
SINCE THAT TIME IN SOU'S ROOM.
THIS FEELS SO AWKWARD ...
IF THIS KEEPS UP..
I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON RESTORING MYSELF.
..
WAFF
IF YOU SPACE OUT HERE, YOU'RE GONNA GET WET.
grab
HEY

CRASH
AH...
Yeah
TAKE A SEAT?
I DIDN'T SEE A CONVENIENCE STORE ON THE WAY HERE SO IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE THEM AWHILE.
HOW...
HAVE YOU BEEN HOLDING UP?
HAS YOUR ANXIETY PROBLEM...
GOTTEN A BIT BETTER?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF YOU ASKING ME THAT?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE.

ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WELL WITH SAKURA-SAWA?
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING UP KOUICHI NOW?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU OR HIM!
ACK
CRAP.
I GOTTA ACT NORMALLY. MORE NORMALLY
YOU MEAN THAT BROWN, TIGER-STRIPED KITTEN?
OH
HUH ..?
HE WAS SO CUTE WHEN I FIRST PICKED HIM UP.
HEY ..
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT CAT I KEPT WHEN I WAS A KID?
WHEN I WENT TO TAKE HIM TO THE VET...
Remember?
HE GOT HORRIBLY FRIGHT-ENED
AS HE CLUNG TO ME...
HIS CLAWS DUG INTO ME ENOUGH THAT IT HURT.
I WAS PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE HE APPROACHED.
WHAT'S WITH THIS STORY ALL OF A SUDDEN...?

I WAS REALLY STUPID THEN.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOUR MOM REALLY GOT MAD AT YOU FOR THAT.
HE WAS SO CUTE...
THAT I KEPT TAKING HIM TO THE VET.
I WONDER HOW MUCH STRESS I CAUSED HIM...
BY TAKING HIM TO THE VET UNNECESSARILY...
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH HIM...
I WAS JUST HAPPY TO BE CLUNG TO.
IT'S THE SAME.
HUH?
IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT I DID WITH YOU.

WHEN YOUR DAD HAD THAT ACCIDENT...
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'VE ONLY BEEN THANKFUL FOR SOU.
I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SOU'S FAULT.
YAMATO AND I RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL TOGETHER.
I... WORSENED YOUR ANXIETY PROBLEM.
YES...
AND THEN YOU GAVE ME A HUG...
I REMEMBER IT ALL CLEARLY!
BUT I SAID SOMETHING TO YOU.
YOU WERE IN A STATE OF PANIC THEN, SO YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER.

WHEN I HUG YOU LIKE THIS
AND OVER AGAIN
SCARY THINGS WON'T HAPPEN
THOSE WORDS REPEATED OVER...

I WAS AN ONLY CHILD.
SO I WAS ALWAYS ENVIOUS OF YAMATO

YOU WERE CRYING AND LOOKED SO CUTE.

THAT'S WHY
WHEN YOU CLUNG TO ME, I FELT INCREDIBLY HAPPY.

YOU WERE SO SMALL AND SHAKING...
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ALL ALONE.

NO ..
THAT'S WHY I KEPT REPEATING THOSE WORDS..
I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.
YOU WERE CRYING, BUT I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOU
HORRIBLE OF ME, WASN'T IT?
I WANTED YOU TO DEPEND ON ME MORE AND MORE.
JUST LIKE WHEN I TOOK THAT KITTEN TO THE VET.
IF I WERE TO SAY SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL UNEASIER..
THEN YOU'D CLING TO ME MORE AND MORE
IF I'M NOT WITH YOU, SOMETHING BAD MAY HAPPEN AGAIN
BECAUSE IF I'M NOT THERE, YOU'LL BECOME UPSET
OVER..
AND OVER...
NO, IT CAN'T BE..
IF I'M WITH YOU, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.

I WAS MADE TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS USELESS WITHOUT SOU.
NO..
NO, IT CAN'T BE
I CAN'T THINK THAT!
I DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT FOR ALL THIS TIME
IF I'M NOT THERE FOR YOU.
I'VE MADE YOU BELIEVE THAT NOTHING WILL GO RIGHT.
IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU HAVE THIS ANXIETY PROBLEM.
SOU, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO KIND TO ME
NO MATTER WHO TEASED YOU..
NO MATTER WHERE WE WERE..
YOU WOULD ALWAYS..
HUH?
THAT'S BECAUSE
I WANTED TO DO THAT.

I WANTED YOU TO BE..
UNABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT ME
I'M SORRY, KATSURA
FOR TYING YOU DOWN TO FEED MY EGO
JUST NOW...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE...
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN...
THAT THINGS COULDN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
A LOVE CON-...
fession
blush
BE-CAUSE
I SAW SAKURASAWA KISS YOU
S-SO WHY NOW...
ALL OF A SUDDEN...?

Mochi*Mochi

IT WAS ONLY PLAIN JEALOUSY AT FIRST...
BUT SINCE THEN...
I'VE REALLY THOUGHT HARD ABOUT IT
REGARDLESS OF WHO IT WILL BE...
SOMEDAY YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
AND I'D HAVE TO RELEASE YOU FROM MY SELFISH EGO.
SO, I, TOO...
HAS BEEN THINKING THE SAME THINGS AS ME...
WE EACH...

WERE WORRIED ABOUT TYING THE OTHER DOWN...
AND AT THE SAME TIME, WE STARTED TO WISH FOR THE OTHER'S HAPPINESS.
BUT DESPITE THAT...
IT ONLY MADE...
OUR FEELINGS SO JUMBLED THAT IT AFFECTED OUR ARCHERY
HOW DID IT BECOME SUCH A MESS...
KAT-SURA.
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH SAKURA-SAWA?

shake
shake
I LIKE YOU.
I THOUGHT THAT I WAS JUST BEING POSSES-SIVE...
AHH...?
BUT SOMEHOW THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE IT.
SO...
I'M SORRY.

I
SORRY?
FOR WHAT...?

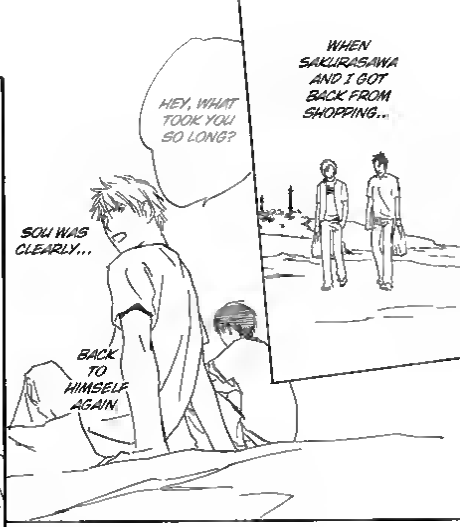
breeze
SOU...?
REGARD-LESS...
CRASH
KAT-SURA...
YOU'RE FREE NOW.
I CAN'T CALM YOUR NERVES DOWN BY HUGGING YOU ANYMORE.
THIS TIME IT'S REALLY THE END FOR ME.
THANKS...
I FEEL BETTER HAVING DONE THAT.

THE CAUSE OF YOUR CHRONIC ANXIETY IS BECAUSE I PUT THOSE THOUGHTS INTO YOUR HEAD
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET BETTER
THAT'S JUST YOU DECIDING THAT ON YOUR OWN..
BUT I'LL STILL...
IT DOESN'T MATTER...
IF I HAVE CHRONIC ANXIETY OR NOT.
I
I...
I DON'T
THESE ARE THE LAST WORDS I'LL PUT INTO YOUR HEAD..
YOU'LL BE OK EVEN BY YOURSELF
YOU WON'T EVER LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.

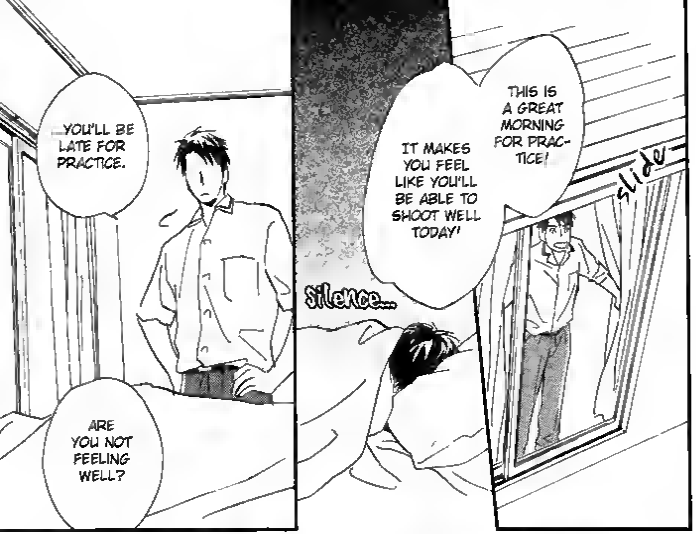
I WANT YOU BY MY SIDE FOREVER
!
BUT IF I SAY THAT AND YOU FLAT OUT REJECT ME RIGHT NOW...
WHY...
DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PUTTING AN END TO EVERYTHING YOURSELF...
NO
I'M SURE I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM IT.
The Third Shot END

凛!
-RIN-
第
四
射
The Fourth Shot

KNOCK
KATSURA!
HEY, KATSURA!
KNOCK
YESTER-DAY...
AS SOON AS WE GOT HOME FROM THE BEACH,
HE SAID THAT HE WAS TIRED AND SHUT HIMSELF UP IN HIS ROOM.
WHAT'S WRONG? YAMATO,
YOU KNOW HOW KATSURA HAS MORNING PRACTICE TODAY?
Sorry, was I too loud?
WELL, HE REFUSES TO GET UP.



I THOUGHT THAT LEAVING THEM TOGETHER TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS, BUT ..


...YOU'LL BE LATE FOR PRACTICE.
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
THIS IS A GREAT MORNING FOR PRACTICE!
IT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SHOOT WELL TODAY!
Silence...
slide

I STARTED ARCHERY AT THE SAME TIME AS KOUICHI, BUT HE'S ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE FOR THE TEAM.
WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHEN YOU AND SOU WERE MY AGE, YOU WERE ALREADY 3-DAN!
BUT HERE I AM...

EVEN THOUGH YOU'LL BE AN ALTERNATE FOR...
WHAT DOES IT MATTER!? I'LL ALWAYS JUST BE AN ALTERNATE!

OH, GEEZ.
rustle...
KATSURA, ARE YOU ANGRY?
H-HEY...
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
BUT YOUR EYES...
WAS HE CRYING ALL NIGHT...?

KAT-SURA...
I HATE IT...
I'M... SO USE-LESS...
.....
pat
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO ME?
SOMETHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
YOU MIGHT FEEL BETTER JUST BY TALKING ABOUT IT
I DON'T (KNOW WHERE TO START...
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY THAT...
ho-onk!!
ANYTHING IS FINE
JUST TRY SAYING WHAT HAPPENED A LITTLE AT A TIME
SNIFF SNIFF

KOUICHI...
CONFESSED TO ME...
...
Haa
HMM...
Sat and listened
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE APPROACHED BY GUYS.
Let alone my own best friend and Kouhai.
I UNDERSTAND THE MATTER, BUT.
well, sorry.
BUT YOU ARE CUTE...
HOW I LIKE MY BROTHER BECOMING A HARAM FOR MEN...
I DUNNO...
Why do you have to say that!?
I'm being serious here!
You're really cute, Katsura!
I'm serious too
A GIRL HASN'T EVEN APPROACHED KATSURA LIKE THAT YET...

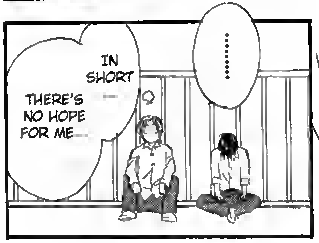
SOU'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SLY NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
..WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
EVERY TIME YOU WENT TO HIM FOR HELP,
HE ACTUALLY COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL HAPPY.
AND YET HE PRETENDED TO BE ALL IRRITATED ABOUT IT.
YEAH..
THAT'S TRUE...
WHEN HE TEASED ME...
HE WAS NEVER REALLY MEAN ABOUT IT.
SO NOW WHAT?
HUH?
YOUR FEELINGS
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHY... YOU CRIED ALL NIGHT?

KATSURA.
IT'S NOT THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE JUST TIRED FROM THINKING SO MUCH.
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU WERE SAD ENOUGH TO CRY WHEN YOU THOUGHT SOU WOULD LEAVE YOU.
WHEN HE KISSED YOU, YOU DIDN'T HATE IT AT ALL.
ISN'T THE ANSWER OBVIOUS?
TRUE.
I DIDN'T HATE IT WHEN HE KISSED ME.
WITH KOUICHI...
I WANTED TO RUN AWAY RIGHT THEN
BUT IT FELT...
VERY NATURAL WITH SOU...

I'M REALLY SURPRISED THOUGH.
SOU'S A REALLY POPULAR GUY
.....
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE AFTER YOU...
I...
I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER!
AFTER ALL, WE'RE BOTH...
GUYS...
ARE YOU OK WITH IT, NII-CHAN?
IT'S...
HMM?
WELL, IT'S...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP YOUR OWN BROTHER...
FROM TURNING GAY?
UM, WELL...
TRUTHFULLY IT WORRIES ME
BUT SEEING YOU CRY IS A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM FOR ME.
EVERYTHING ELSE CAN COME LATER.

YOUR LAST LINK TO SOU.. WAS FINALLY SEVERED, RIGHT?
YEAH
PEOPLE ARE STRONGEST WHEN THEY'VE JUST LOST EVERYTHING
I CAN'T KEEP CRYING..
KATSURA, GO DRAW YOUR BOW
THIS MAY FINALLY BE A CHANCE FOR YOU TO OVERCOME YOURSELF
I MUST FINALLY PUT THIS...
VICIOUS CYCLE TO A STOP
ALRIGHT, I WILL

YUP, THAT'S IT.
JUST THINK ABOUT YOUR ARCHERY NOW.
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT SOU WANTS TOO
FEAR HAUNTS THE KIDNEYS,
AND ANXIETY CONSUMES THE SOUL... RIGHT?
BEFORE I KNEW IT, HE'S COME TO AN AGE WHERE HE CAN CLAMOR ABOUT LOVE AND SUCH..
IDIOT BROTHER
Drop in thanks!!
KATSURA WAS ALWAYS SO SMALL..
CLATTER
No, I don't have any clean socks left!
JUMP
..NII-CHAN, WAIT FOR ME
I'LL HURRY AND CHANGE NOW!



I'VE BEEN SO SPOILED...

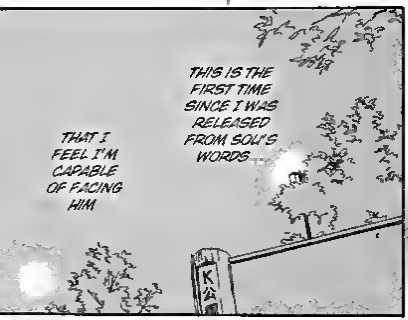
UP UNTIL NOW.

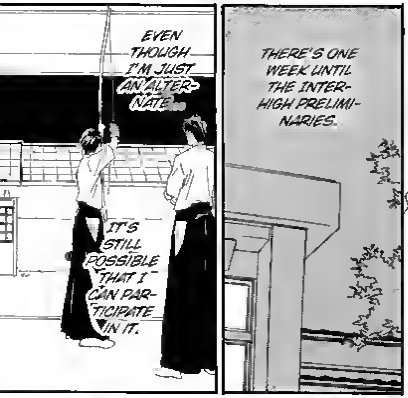
Sharp
"I DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR YOU, KOUICHI..."
NOR DO I INTEND TO HAVE ANYONE ELSE TRY TO SUBDUE MY CHRONIC ANXIETY."
I, AT LEAST..
MUST MAKE MY FEELINGS CLEAR
I MUST LEARN TO STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET
...YOU KNOW,
I DON'T LIKE SHIBATA-SENPAI
Huh?

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT..
HE LIKES YOU.
smile

KATSURA, YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IT ONE BIT.
YOU'RE A BIT OF A SPACE CASE, BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO CUTE
Ha ha ha ha
Hey, watch it.
Well excuuuse me
BUT HE PRETENDED NOT TO... AND GOT HIMSELF ALL WORKED UP ABOUT IT.
IT'S PRETTY SILLY OF HIM TO ACT ALL MACHO ABOUT IT.
BUT AREN'T THINGS FINE WITH THE WAY WE ARE?
I'd feel hurt if you seriously agonize to me
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Che, calling me a space case
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY 'WHAT DO YOU MEAN'?
RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN?
Geez

mochi*mochi
http://mochi.harusame.net




EVEN THOUGH... I'M JUST AN ALTER-NATE...
IT'S STILL POSSIBLE THAT I CAN PAR-TICIPATE IN IT.
THERE'S ONE WEEK UNTIL THE INTER-HIGH PRELIMI-NARIES.

I WILL SAY GOODBYE...
TO THE ME THAT BROODS AND WORRIES ALL THE TIME
I ALSO...
YEARN FOR THAT
thwap!
NII-CHAN'S POWERFUL BOW
WAS BORN FROM THE FUSION OF...
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH

UM...
HOW WAS THAT?
Hmm...
YOU'VE BECOME A LOT LESS STIFF THAN BEFORE, BUT...
YOU'RE RUNNING SHORT OF BREATH NOW, RIGHT?
HUH...?
YEAH...
BUT...
LET'S CALL IT QUITS FOR TODAY, KATSURA.
IT'S MEANINGLESS FOR YOU TO KEEP SHOOTING IN THIS CONDITION.
WHEN YOU GET HOME, GO PRACTICE WITH THE RUBBER PRACTICE BOW.
EVEN IF I TELL YOU TO GET RID OF YOUR IDLE THOUGHTS, IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
.....
YOUR BODY IS STILL TENSE.
THE PROOF IS THAT YOU CAN'T SUSTAIN YOUR BREATHING.

BUT IT'S NOT JUST DISCIPLINE THAT I'M MISSING...
I KNOW THAT I'M LACKING IN MENTAL DISCI-PLINE...
IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
HMM?
UM... NII-CHAN.
I'M SORRY.
FOR MAKING YOU COME HELP ME PRACTICE...
I WONDER WHAT IT IS ..
WHAT ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT IT FOR?
FLOP

flip
WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY...
SEEMS HORRIBLY DISTANT.
BUT THEN I PUSHED HIM AWAY.
I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED HIM TO HUG ME...
HIS FINGERS...
I WONDER WHAT...
SOU...
WERE SO HOT...
SOU WAS FEELING THEN...

"YOUR UNIFORM REEKS OF SMOKE!"
WAS IT BECAUSE I SAID THAT...?
IT CAN'T BE..
BUT EVER SINCE THEN...
I HAVEN'T SMELLED ANY SMOKE ON HIM...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WHEN DID...
THE SMELL OF CIGARETTE SMOKE DISAPPEAR...?
HE WAS ALWAYS...
A BIT MEAN...
AND SARCASTIC...
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE IT SOONER?
IT WAS JUST AN OFFHAND REMARK, BUT HE...
EVEN I FORGOT ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW.
SOU...

I WANT TO SEE SOU..
IT'S SOMETHING..
BUT HE WAS ALWAYS AT MY SIDE..
AND THINKING ABOUT ME..
SO NATURAL..
I MISS
BUT I CAN'T YET.

THAT'S THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW.
I CAN'T FACE SOU LIKE THIS
AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL I CAN DRAW MY BOW SATISFACTORILY.
NII-CHAN'S LATE..
QUICK
thwe!

SOU...?
KATSURA,
GO OVER AND WATCH THE TARGETS
creak
MOVE.
NII-CHAN DID...?
T-THAT SURPRISED ME...
YAMATO ASKED ME TO COME HERE.
HELP YOU WITH YOUR SHOOTING.
WHY ARE YOU..?

thwap!
thwap!

SOU, YOU WERE PERFECT!
THAT'S AMAZING!
NOT ONLY DID THEY ALL HIT THE MARK..
BUT THEY ALL HIT THE BULL'S EYE
YOU CAN DO IT TOO.
THAT'S WHAT I CAME HERE FOR
No way!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT...
SERI-OUSLY?

YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO SHOOT AS POWERFULLY AS YAMATO, DON'T YOU?
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE ALL THE BASICS DOWN YET
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO EMULATE IT, IT WILL ONLY TURN OUT AN UNNATURAL SHOT.
THAT'S WHAT YAMATO NOTICED EARLIER
THAT'S WHY SOU IS..
A STRONG BOW LIKE THAT REQUIRES HIGHLY TRAINED MUSCLES
ALTHOUGH YAMATO'S IS DUE TO NATURAL TALENT
YOU WILL NEED A LOT MORE TRAINING.
MY BOW BELONGS TO THE FLEXIBLE STYLE.
EACH PERSON'S STRENGTH AND BUILD ARE DIFFERENT.
THE STYLE THAT BEST SUITS YOU GIVES RISE TO A NATURAL BREATHING PATTERN

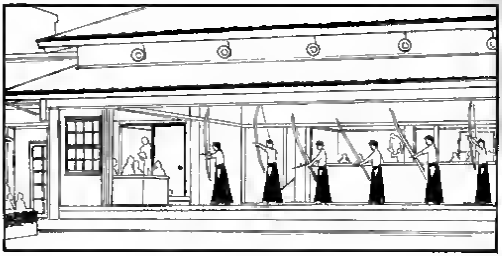
Hrrmm...
I..
REALLY LIKE YOUR BOW, KATSURA
NO WAY..
I STILL... need a lot more work
N-NO...!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
...THANK YOU.
YOUR BOW USED TO BE REMOVED FROM OUTSIDE THOUGHTS.
IT'S MY FAULT THAT I UPSET YOU...
AND CAUSED IT TO BECOME DISTRACTED.

SOU...
I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN ONCE AGAIN SHOOT AS STRAIGHT FORWARD AS YOU USED TO
I WANT TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE THAT
SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY THING...
I CAN DO FOR YOU NOW.
I WON'T BE GETTING ANY HUGS FROM SOU...
BUT...
I REALLY LIKE YOUR BOW
HIS WORDS ARE...
GIVING ME STRENGTH NOW
WHEN THE COMPETITION IS OVER...
HUH?

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO YOU
WHAT IS IT? SOUNDS SCARY.
ALRIGHT.
I'M REALLY SORRY
I'M SURE YOU AND NII-CHAN BOTH HAVE YOUR OWN PRACTICES TO GO TO
YEAH. YOU'RE JUST AN ALTER-NATE.
H-HEY!
EVEN IF I'M JUST AN ALTER-NATE, I FULLY PLAN TO SHOOT WITH EVERYONE IN SPIRIT

IS YOUR ANXIETY PROBLEM BETTER?
I DON'T KNOW...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HOPE FOR IT EVEN MORE
YOU NEVER KNOW
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT YOU CAN PARTIC-IPATE
BUT I FEEL I'LL BE ALRIGHT...
IF I JUST HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF
THEN YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
SINCE I...
FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

SOU.
WITHOUT TOUCHING EACH OTHER.
OR EVEN SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER.
THERE IS SOMETHING DEFINITE BETWEEN US
A NEW BOND THAT TIES US TOGETHER.
ALRIGHT THEN! DON'T SPACE OUT NOW.
GET INTO STANCE!
Y-YES SIR!



High School Archery
District Preliminary
Tournament

ALRIGHT!
thwap
snap

NII-CHAN, YOU WERE PERFECT!
Hey!
I'M ALL PUMPED UP FOR THE NEXT ROUND!
Oooh!
THE GIRLS WON'T LOSE EITHER!
CLACK

EVERYONE'S DOING WELL.
INCREDIBLE.
YEA..!
WE JUST MAY QUALIFY.
SLIDE
AS THE NUMBER OF ARROWS TO BE SHOT PILED HIGHER...
HIS FORM SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN EVEN BETTER.
Tsumi Tech 10
Unohara 7 5 12
you 15 8 23
11 21
WE'RE IN THE FINAL ROUND!
Go Team!

Final Round Qualifiers
3:00
Nowwa
Shisou
Toujou
Arijama
MAN, THOSE GUYS ARE AMAZING
HUH? WHO?
SHIBATA AND KOBAYAKAWA
THEY HIT ALL THEIR TARGETS FOR THE LAST TWO ROUNDS.
We're counting on you all, Senpai
IN YESTERDAY'S INDIVIDUALS TOURNAMENT, THEY PLACED FIRST AND SECOND.
THOSE ARE INTER-HIGH REGULAR QUALIFIERS FOR YOU.
THOSE TWO ARE EXCEPTIONAL
BUT IT'S GOTTEN ME THIS EXCITED..
I'M NOT EVEN PARTICIPATING...
INCREDIBLE...

I RIPPED OPEN A BLISTER...
SOMEONE'S HURT!?
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T SHOOT.
BUT I WON'T BE AT MY BEST
Final Round Qualifiers 3:00 ~
Shoot-Off 3:50 ~
Hanma 14 hits
Suzen B. 16 hits
Tenjou 16 hits
Aoyama 13 hits
A TIE, HUH...
SENPAI!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE SHOOT-OFF
.....
IN THE CASE OF A TIE..
IF WE WIN THIS
WE'D ALSO BE ABLE TO GO AS A TEAM TO THE INTER-HIGH FINALS.
FIVE MEMBERS FROM EACH SCHOOL SHOOT ONE ARROW EACH
THE SCHOOL WITH THE MOST HITS WINS THE TOURNAMENT.
KATSURA...

YOU'LL BE SUBSTITUTING FOR SUZUKAWA. YOU'LL BE IN THE SHOOT-OFF.
HUH? ME?
YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?
Y-YES. I UNDERSTAND!
tug
thump
I GOTTA GET A HOLD OF MYSELF...
I GOTTA CALM DOWN!
thump
EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME PRESSURE PRETTY MUCH
I'VE PRACTICED EVERYTHING.
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT.
I CAN DO IT...!

WE ALL HAVE TO HIT THE TARGET
EVEN WITH FOUR, WE HAVE TO HIT CLOSER TO THE BULL'S EYE TO WIN.
PLEASE ENTER
THEY GOT FOUR HITS
WHICH MEANS THAT...
SYNC
SOU..
I TOO..
I'M SURE THAT RIGHT NOW
HE'S ONLY CONCENTRATING ON HIS BOW.
MUST DO THE BEST THAT I CAN.
BEGIN!

creak
thwap!
thump
THOSE TWO ARE REALLY INCREDI-BLE...
slide
ALRIGHT!
thump
snap

WE MISSED ONE...!
THUMP
CLICK
...NO...
IF I MISS TOO...
THEN WE LOSE...
Oh, no...
SPIN
WHY ELSE DID [illegible] HELP ME TRAIN SO MUCH?
I GOTTA GET A HOLD OF MYSELF.
I MUST OVERCOME THIS...!
...WHY NOW...!?
Ngh

SOU...
I CAN FEEL HIM
I CAN FEEL IT
THE PRESENCE OF SOU WRAPPING HIS ARMS AROUND ME..
THE WARMTH OF SOU'S ARMS ..
ENCOURAGES ME MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN WORDS CAN.

IS IT OK
FOR YOU TO SKIP THE AWARDS CEREMONY?
step
YAMATO'S COVERING FOR ME, SO IT'S FINE.

CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING INDIVIDUALS
YOUR SHOOTING... WAS GREAT.
I'M GLAD I CAN ALSO GO TO THE INTER-HIGH FINALS.
NOW YOU CAN POSTPONE YOUR RETIREMENT FOR LONGER.
YEAH, AT LEAST UNTIL AUGUST.
YOU THINK SO?
THE ARROW HIT THE TARGET DEAD CENTER.
IT WAS EXACTLY THE SHOOTING I HOPED FOR.
NO OF COURSE, NII-CHAN DIDN'T MISS THE TARGET, OR SOMETHING.
WE CAN STILL SHOOT TOGETHER FOR A LITTLE MORE.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
HUH?
YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO TELL ME WHEN THE COMPETITION WAS OVER, REMEMBER?
.....
OH, YEAH...
I LIKE...
YOU TOO.

UM... HUH?
.....
UMM... YOU...
NEVER KNEW...?
I KNOW THERE WAS A MOMENT WHEN OUR HEARTS CONNECTED.
UH... NO
SINCE...
YOU...
AND SOU HAS BEEN ACTING CAREFULLY AROUND ME...
W-WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
WAS IT ALL JUST IN MY HEAD?
Umm...
Nothing
IT'S JUST THAT...
KATSURA...
YOU WERE ABSOLUTELY FINE WITHOUT ME
THAT'S JUST IT!
I MEAN...
EVEN THOUGH YOU WEREN'T PHYSICALLY THERE, I STILL NEEDED YOUR CALM PRESENCE TO BE THERE FOR ME!

I-Iloved?
Huh
You got a problem with that?
Er, no
ISN'T THAT...
LOVE?
THAT'S WHY...
I CAN STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET NOW
I CAN FINALLY SHOOT WITHOUT HAVING TO TURN TO YOU
I CAN FINALLY SAY.
THAT I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU.
I REALLY L-...
MMMPHH

I GET IT ALREADY...
SO STOP SAYING THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
It's rather rousing
Sigh
Pfft

KAT-
SURA.
HOW IS IT NOW?
HOW IS WHAT NOW?
WHEN I HUG YOU, DOESN'T YOUR THROB-BING BECOME UNBEARABLE?
IS IT OK NOW?
You pushed me away so many times.
IT'S OK
IF IT DOES
IT'LL BE BAD
IF MY HEART STOPS POUNDING LIKE THIS.

JOIN FORCES?
SINCE MY HEART ONLY RACES...
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, SOU
WHAT THE HECK?
KATSURA CAN FINALLY STAND ON HIS OWN NOW
AND WHEN HE HIT THE TARGET, HIS FACE SEEMED STRANGELY ALLURING
HMM...
SAKURASAWA! YOU...
MEANING THAT YOU CAN'T HAND SUCH A CUTE LITTLE BROTHER OVER TO ANY GUYS NOW.
Right, senpai?
SO WE SHOULD TEAM UP TOGETHER.
I'M GOING TO GET SERIOUS FROM NOW ON.

SERIOUS...? ABOUT WHAT?
fu fu fu
BURST
Wah...
I'M LATE ww!
thud
thud
WHA---
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SO CLOSE
IT'S OK. IT'S JUST SO YOU CAN GATHER YOUR NERVES BEFORE PRACTICE.
...SOU?
grab
WHOA!

MY HEART ISN'T EVEN POUNDING!
Oh, they're hugging again
Katsuma, you're coming in late
Soa must get a kick out of teasing me
GO RUN LAPS!
YOU'RE LATE!
Uwa
YES, SIR.
Grr
It's all Sou's fault
I'LL GO TOO
SENPAI, YOU'RE AT THE MAKI-WARA
Here, an arrow
Pfft
The hell? Don't tell me what to do
Sou be quiet

The Fourth Shot ◯ END

A Late-Summer Greeting For You

Special Extra

.....
Summer Homework
SUMMER VACATION HAS BEEN ENRICHING IN ITS OWN WAY
WITH ALL SORTS OF THINGS HAPPENING
SOU...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS EITHER.
KATSURA
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN THE INTER-HIGH FINALS AS AN ALTERNATE
IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'VE BEEN DEVOTING YOURSELF TO ARCHERY ALL SUMMER.
WELL, I DIDN'T REALLY MIND
BUT YOU HAVE TO DO ALL YOUR OTHER WORK TOO
IT'S BECAUSE
Will you be able to finish with just two days left?
Sou-kun!

RIGHT NOW I'M AIMING FOR THE FALL ROOKIES TOURNAMENT HELD FOR NEW REGULARS.
I'M WORKING HARD WITH A RENEWED SPIRIT.
NII-CHAN PLACED SECOND IN INDIVIDUALS..
THE TEAM PLACED THIRD OVERALL.
AND SOU PLACED FOURTH.
I GUESS IT MOTIVATED ME...
TO WORK HARDER AT MY ARCHERY.
Hey
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
BUT..
Such an oraed.
Uh Umm
Y-.
Yeah.
AH!
I GET IT NOW!
YOU JUST TAKE TH-
kiss

Ngh
Nnh
kiss
ah
Hmm?
Um
W-
WAIT
THUD
Ngh
Sou

Ah……
Ah
QUIET…
Sou ngh…
I-I HAVE TO…
DO MY HOME-WORK…
Wah
Ngh…
Kat sura…
rustle

.DID YOU HATE IT?
.I'M SORRY
IT'S...
IT'S EMBARRASSING
Hmm?
.....
rest
Uwa
KATSURA, I LOVE YOU
SOON THE SWELTERING SUMMER WILL END...
AND OUR LOVE WILL HAVE SURPASSED ONE SEASON
Alright, alright...
The rest of my homework...
I'll look it over for you
Extra END

Satoru Kannagi
Afterwords

I have to say the best thing about having my stories turned into a manga is that I can see my silly ideas come alive on paper. When I got the assignment for the story and heard that Honami-san would be the manga artist my brain pretty much went to pieces (laugh). Is there any greater bliss than to have Honami-san bring my characters to life with her illustrations?

So that's how "Rin!" came about. It's my favorite kanji character. It's a word that's always impressed on my mind whenever I have to write my stories. Actually, I had some trouble coming up with the title for this story. I was able to narrow it down to a few choices but when I went to look at Honami-san's illustration for the magazine ad it pretty much decided it for itself. Although the manga is set around an archery club (which emphasizes personal spirituality) Sou, Katsura and the others have such a clear and pure appearance to them that seems to fit them just right. The characters that Honami-san draws are so cute, beautiful, cool and just absolutely charming. It's not often that you see boys in archery uniforms drawn with such a stoic but sexy touch as hers don't you think?

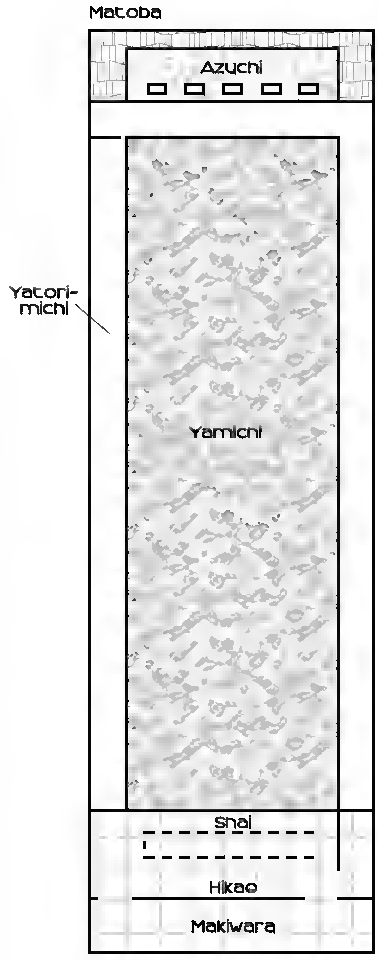
We received many letters during the serialization of "Rin!" It was interesting to see how people's taste differed from person to person. Kouichi was very popular among the supporting characters but according to the poll conducted by Chara Magazine readers voted Yamato as the character they most wanted to marry. As for me, my vote goes to... the housedad Mr. Kobayakawa. Honami-san's depiction of him makes me want to shout "Marry me!"

Oh, oh! Then the manga extra at the end of the book! Thank you so much Honami-san! My brain exploded once again. I'm such an idiot that I never stopped to think "How can you end it on just a kiss!?" and just forged right through it. However, due to Honami-san's skill and the support of the readers, my plan to continue the story for another book was granted!

Yes, it's true! Sou and Katsura are coming back! Please look forward to a brand-new story between the two!

Satoru Kannagi

JAPANESE ARCHERY DOJO (KYUUDOUJOU)



KONNYANYACHIWA! HERE TO BRING YOU ANOTHER TRANSLATOR RAMBLE. THIS TIME I'LL BE INTRODUCING THE BASIC LAYOUT OF THE ARCHERY DOJO. IT CONSISTS OF THREE MAJOR ELEMENTS: MATOBA, YAMICHI AND SHAJO. THE DEFINITION OF EACH PART OF THE DOJO IS AS FOLLOWS:

MATOBA - TARGET HOUSE

AZUCHI - TARGET BANK

YATORIMICHI - ARROW RETRIEVAL PATH

YAMICHI - ARROW PATH

SHAI - SHOOTING POSITION

HIKAE - WAITING AREA

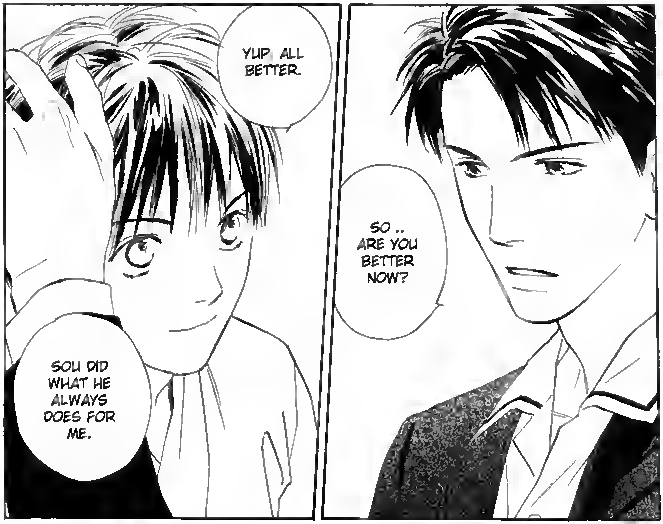
MAKIWARA - STRAW TARGET PRACTICE AREA

SHAJO - SHOOTING HALL

NOW YOU KNOW HAVE A BASIC IDEA OF WHERE YAMATO AND SOU ARE INSTRUCTING ALL THEIR CUTE LITTLE KOUHAI.

THIS IS BY NO MEANS A COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE DOJO LAYOUT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THIS WONDERFUL SITE!

HTTP://WWW.KYUDO.COM/KYUDO-E7.HTML


YUP, ALL BETTER.
SO.. ARE YOU BETTER NOW?
SOU DID WHAT HE ALWAYS DOES FOR ME.

KATSURA! WE'RE ASSEMBLING NOW
YOU MEAN HE ALWAYS DOES IT?
THE THING HE ALWAYS DOES FOR YOU...
'K. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, KOUICHI!'
ERR.
RIGHT KOBAYA-KAWA-SENPAI?
THIS IS THE DOJO
DESPITE HOW CUTE YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER IS...
ERR...
sullen
I'm sorry!